

My name is Jamie Eidsath, and I'm a CPM practicing in Ann Arbor. I am on the board of directors of NACPM, the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives.

I'm part of the workgroup for US MERA, which is the coalition of Certified Professional Midwife and Certified Nurse Midwife organizations that has created agreements and recommendations for national standards on education, regulation, and association for midwives in the United States. I want to clarify that the national leadership fully supports licensure for CPMs and integration of the profession into the mainstream medical community.

You've heard from midwives and consumers about the excellent outcomes enjoyed by families who receive care from CPMs. I'd like to talk about the benefits to the state and business community.

**CPM care is cost effective.** In 2007, the Washington state legislature commissioned a study to look at their licensed midwives. They found that over two years, CPM care saved Medicaid and private insurers over 3 million dollars, and they did it attending less than 2% of births in the state. This cost savings was accompanied by improved outcomes for mothers and babies.

**CPM care benefits the business community.** In states where midwives become licensed, the profession is able to thrive. After Wisconsin licensed CPMs in 2006, the midwives there saw their practices grow. More midwives began to practice, and a community college opened a program to train new midwives. I believe that if Michigan licenses midwives, it will create opportunities for small business owners like me.

I support this bill, and I encourage you to vote yes.